

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., Dec. 8, 1886.

[This paper entered as second class matter at the Post Office in Winston, N. C.]

## THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

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—Congress met in short session Monday. It has not yet fairly got to work.

—President Cleveland was confined a few days last week to his room with rheumatism.

—It is stated that within the past three months sixty-five railroad companies have been organized in the South.

—More heavy earthquake shocks were felt in Charleston on 1st instant, severe enough to shake plastering from ceilings.

—The jail at Greensboro caught fire Saturday night, but after hard work was extinguished. There were 38 prisoners, mostly negroes, confined in it.

—The U. S. Treasury paid out nearly \$14,000,000 for pensions in the month of November. The reduction in the public debt was a little over a million.

—Justices Wood, Field, Miller and Bradley, of the U. S. Supreme Court, are all over seventy and can retire if they desire. Chief Justice Waite is seventy.

—The loss caused by the late strike of men employed in pork packing establishments of Chicago is estimated at \$1,000,000, to strikers, employees and others.

—It is said that Mark Twain has made a million and a half dollars by his own writings and publishing books of others. He made a big pile of money out of Grant's book.

—The Life-Saving Service has saved 2,699 lives, and yet there is no department of the Government service in which those employed receive poorer pay than this.

—The specie held by the national banks in 1866 was \$19,000,000; in October, 1875, it was only \$8,000,000, while in July, 1885, it was \$117,000,000, and is now \$156,000,000.

—There is a negro in Louisiana, now 74 years old, who swore before the federal court that he was the father of 165 children. Some of his boys were killed in the war and he was applying for a pension.

—In the communication signed Farmer, on 2nd page, the writer gives his views in unequivocal language, and sounds a clarion note for the convention. He is one of the prominent agriculturists of the central portion of the State, noted for his public spirit, his zeal in any movement calculated to promote the interests of the farmer, his progressiveness, and his perseverance and determination in carrying out movements started in the interest of his brother farmers. He is as honest in purpose as he is plain and candid in speech.

## A GROWING SENTIMENT.

There is a growing sentiment, among others as well as farmers, in this State that the \$7,500 annual interest on the \$125,000 land scrip fund donated by the Congress of the United States for the support of an Agricultural and Mechanical College, should no longer be used by the University but should be applied to the object for which it was intended. This sentiment does not grow out of any hostility to the University, for among those who entertain it are some of the best wishers of that institution, but they insist that it should, so to speak, stand upon its own feet and upon its own merits. They do not believe that it has any right in law nor in morals to appropriate and use what does not belong to it. It is not an agricultural nor mechanical college, nor has it any agricultural or mechanical college connected with it to justify such appropriation. The pretense that there is an agricultural college there because of an occasional lecture on some subject bearing directly or indirectly upon agriculture will not do. It might as well be asserted that they have also a naval school if, perhaps, they have lectures sometimes on the tides, ocean currents, navigation, &c. This matter is getting to be pretty well understood among the people and the better it is understood the more imperative becomes the demand that this money shall cease to be diverted from the use for which it was intended, and that it be applied honestly to the use for which it was intended, and that if it cannot be so applied now that it be saved and funded that it may be so applied when practicable. This is all they ask, no more. It is right, it is reasonable. They seek to take nothing from the University that belongs to it, they simply ask it to surrender what does not belong to it. This money has been expended year after year until it has reached the sum of over \$82,000, by far the greater portion of which has been paid by the farmers of the State in the way of taxes to make good the loss of a fund originally theirs, but lost to them by the criminal or bad management of others, and there is neither reason nor justice in requiring them to continue to pay this annual interest tax, ostensibly levied for their benefit, if it is to continue to go for the benefit of others, and not for them. They are getting tired of it, and more than that they are becoming indignant that they should have been imposed upon so long, because they did not exactly understand how the matter stood and supposed it was all right. But the men who dig their living out of the ground are becoming better posted, and they, and others who are not farmers but who believe in fair play and honest dealing, believe and demand that the legislature should cry a halt in this matter and that the farmers' money should go honestly to the farmers, and not to the State University nor to any other State institution.

## AN IMPORTANT MEASURE.

In the first session of the Forty-ninth Congress Hon. W. W. Hatch of Missouri, introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to establish experiment stations in the several States and territories which have agricultural colleges established under the provisions of the land grant act of 1862. The objects of the bill are set forth in section two as follows:

Sec. 2 That it shall be the object and duty of said experiment stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants or animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation within the isothermal limits represented by the climate of the several States and their vicinity; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese; and such other researches or experiments bearing

directly on the agricultural industry of the United States as may in each case be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States and territories.

Section three provides that such experiment stations shall be under control of the governing bodies of such colleges who shall have the power to appoint a director and such assistants as may be necessary.

Section four directs that to secure uniformity of work the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture shall co-operate with such stations, furnish forms as far as practicable for the tabulation of reports and furnish such advice and assistance as will best contribute to the promotion of the objects in view, but the commissioner shall have no control over such stations. This section further directs that an annual report shall be made on or before the 1st day of February of each year to the Governor of the State or Territory in which such station may exist, of its operations, receipts and expenditures of money, one copy of which shall be sent to the Commissioner of Agriculture and another to the Secretary of the treasury.

Section five directs, to make the work of such stations immediately useful, that a bulletin be issued at least quarterly, a copy mailed to every paper published in the State or territory, and to every farmer requesting a copy, as far as the means of the station will permit, such bulletins to be transmitted through the mails of the U. S. free of charge for postage.

Section six provides that to defray the expenses of such stations and pay the necessary salaries, the sum of \$15,000 be annually appropriated to each State or territory where such stations may have been or may be established, but when two stations are in operation it is provided in section one that the appropriation shall be equally divided between them unless the legislature shall otherwise direct. Section six further provides that out of the first annual appropriation a sum not exceeding one fifth may be expended in providing a building or buildings necessary for carrying on the work of such station, and thereafter a sum not exceeding five per cent of such annual appropriation may be so expended.

Section seven provides that when there may be any surplus, such surplus shall be deducted from the next annual appropriation, so that no station shall annually receive more than is necessary to maintain and support it.

This bill was read several times, referred to committees, ordered to be printed and reprinted with amendments. It was before the Senate, where it was discussed shortly before the adjournment, and laid over for further consideration until the next session.

It is simply following up and carrying out more fully the purpose in view in establishing the agricultural colleges under the act of 1862. An agricultural college without an experiment station or farm is practically of little account, and while it is not contemplated in this act that the station with its farm of at least twenty-five acres, for which it provides, shall be for the use of the students, they would still derive great benefit from it because there the experiments would be conducted in a thoroughly scientific way. It is needless to say that such stations would prove of vast benefit to the cause of agriculture throughout the country and supported by an annual appropriation sufficient to meet their wants, would grow more useful every year. Acting in conjunction with the agricultural department at Washington, with the co-operation of a live, progressive man like Commissioner Colman, there would be system and method in them, resulting in a vast amount of practical results and useful information to the farmers of all sections of the country. Although North Carolina could not at once avail herself of the appropriation because as yet she has not an agricultural college, we trust that the time is not far distant when we may have one; but whether or not we would like to see this measure passed because it would benefit the farmers of the land in whose interest it is proposed. It is due to them and it should pass before the present session ends.

—Cutsu Hito, the Mikado of Japan, wears a moustache and parts his hair in the middle.

## JOTTINGS BY THE WAYSIDE.

—How the gay and the sad, happiness and misery, comfort and poverty, are mixed up in this world! And nowhere, to an observant eye, can more of it be seen than on our great railroads. Seated in the car is a lady clad in the deepest mourning and bowed in grief—in the express car is a corpse. She is following it to its last resting place in the old family burying ground. In a seat near her and reading the Century is a man, evidently of culture and wealth, whose costume shows him to be a sportsman, and in the same express car is his pointer dog for which he would not take a thousand dollars, cash.

—Prof. McIver, once our State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and who represented Mecklenburg in the legislature, and who is one of our best educators, has several farms and is therefore greatly interested in all that pertains to the advancement of the farmers of the State. He said "I am strongly in favor of a farmers' convention and I hope to be able to attend it. I want to see if the convention can't devise some means to lead our people out from the meshes of the mortgage lien system. I want the farmers to take some action also in regard to commercial fertilizers. The excessive use of them is ruining our people. I shall endeavor at once to organize a club and see that it is represented in the convention."

—The farmers of Georgia have two conventions each year, one in February and one in July. All the counties are represented and generally there are about 800 delegates present, the most enjoyable occasion of the whole year. They cannot do without it and you would be astonished to see the interest they take in it, the good it is doing in our State." So said an intelligent Georgian to me.

—Durham, plucky little Durham, is rising from her ashes and is rapidly rebuilding the burnt district. Her people are confident of the road from Lynchburg and talk hopefully of the Williamston & Tarboro being extended to that place. Pipe is being laid from a water supply six miles distant and soon this fire-scorched town will have plenty of water. We doff our hat to Durham in honor of her indomitable pluck and push, of which she possesses more than any town in the State except, of course, our own thriving and enterprising Twin City.

—What are we to do for building lumber after awhile? The C. F. & Y. V. road and the Raleigh & Augusta Air Line are shipping millions of it away. "I can buy lumber now to build a house—good lumber—at five dollars and fifty cents per thousand feet" said a Raleigh man.

—He had the appearance of a well-to-do farmer, plainly but neatly clad, clean shaved and the faultless whiteness of his linen told of a careful housekeeper he had left at home. Interested in our conversation, he took a seat nearby and said: "Well, you don't allow the women to join your clubs do you?" "Yes, they are received as honorary members if the club desires to have them." "Well how in the world can you get up subjects to interest them, I can't understand. Will you tell me?" "Why my dear sir," we said "there are a thousand questions that not only could but should be discussed in these clubs, in which the farmers' wives and daughters are more concerned than any one else. For instance: have you ever made up your mind which should do the milking, the men or the women? Is it economy to build a shed near the cook room, supply it with plenty of dry wood so as to keep the wife or daughter out of the wintry weather? Have you a well or a spring?" "I have a spring—as good water as ever flowed out of the ground," said he. "And how far is it from your house?" we inquired. "About sixty yards," he replied. "How long have you lived there?" "About 41 years." "How many times per day throughout the year does the water have to be brought?" After a moment's reflection he said: "I should say eight or ten times a day on an average." "Well suppose we figure a little" we said as we produced a pencil, "and we will put it at six instead of eight or ten times a day. Sixty yards at six times a day is 720 yards—in one year it amounts to 148 miles and during the 41 years that you have been living there it

amounts to 6,068 miles—don't you think we could get up some question that would interest the farmers' wives and daughters? Remember too that half the distance is up hill with the water." "Well," said he as he nervously changed his position, "I didn't think that you would discuss such questions as that." "Yes, it is the business of these clubs to cover the whole field of farm and household economy in their investigations," and the old man evinced a disposition to change the subject.

—Maj. Jonathan Evans, once a very efficient member of our State Board of Agriculture, says that he knows farms in Cumberland which, ordinarily, produce 1,500 to 2,000 bushels of corn that this year will not produce fifteen bushels. The people are in a deplorable condition, financially, and do not know where to look for relief. He says, "I am decidedly in favor of the Farmers' Convention, but care should be taken not to let it become a political machine."

—Raleigh has received a splendid donation of 125 acres of land from one of its liberal citizens to be converted into a pleasure park. This is well enough, but as I sit and look over the picture of houses that stretches away toward the hills, all wrapped in snow, and reflect that there are hundreds of women and children who are simply consumers and who necessarily live hard, but who could and would make their way and add to the general wealth of the place, I can't help thinking what a happy thing it would be for them and for the city, if some enterprising moneyed men would build up tobacco factories, cotton and woolen mills, &c., and thus give them employment by a profitable investment of money. A chorus of shrill whistles from a dozen or more factories, swelling out on the morning air, would add wonderfully to the life and activity of this beautiful city, and incalculably to the happiness of a large class of its people, as well as to its wealth.

## OUR COUNTRY ROADS.

We publish this week an interesting letter from a prominent farmer of Mecklenburg county, one whom Mecklenburg has more than once honored and again honors by sending to represent her in the State Senate, on the subject of country roads. The deplorable condition of our wagon highways is conceded. That they should be put in and kept in a better condition is also conceded. But how is this to be done? That is the question. The methods in vogue so far are practically failures, so much time and money thrown away.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has suggested one way in which we can have better roads, with the least possible outlay of money, and that is to stop hiring out the penitentiary convicts to railroads and others, and put them to work and keep them at work upon our country roads. Let the State undertake the work as a part of the system of internal improvements. There are now twelve hundred convicts on the penitentiary rolls. There is no reason to suppose that for some years to come the number will be less. It will probably be greater. With these twelve hundred hands properly managed what a large amount of work they could do in one year upon our country roads. We do not expect to accomplish everything in one or two years, but in a few years with such labor continuously and systematically employed we could have roads that the State might be proud of. This is the use to which these convicts should be put, a use from which the people of the State, the farmers of the State especially who pay most of the expenses of the courts and the prosecution and care of the convicts before they are sentenced and afterwards, would derive some benefit and get back, in part at least, some of the money so expended. The railroads can get along without the convicts. Railroads are built by syndicates these days, syndicates which have money, and build railroads where they will pay whether they have convict labor or not and do not build them where they will not pay whether convict labor can be had or not. Put the convicts on the public roads, and then we may have in a short time good roads at the minimum cost.

—John K. Patterson killed yesterday two 10½ months pigs. The heaviest one weighed 324 pounds.—Concord Register.